

Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly et al. in view of Herz et al.

In response, Applicants have now amended independent claims 1 and 28 to more clearly distinguish the present invention with respect to the prior art of record.

Independent claim 1 of the present invention comprises a method for determining changes in the count of news articles produced by a group of at least one news source which are related to a selected subject over a recent time period, the method comprising measuring a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period, comparing the count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period to a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject for a previous time period, and signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

Independent claim 28 of the present invention comprises a system for determining changes in the count of news articles produced by a group of at least one news source which are related to a selected subject over a recent time period, the system comprising means for measuring a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period, means for comparing the count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject of a previous time period, and means for signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

It is Applicants' belief that Reilly et al. disclose a display statistics generator that keeps track of how many times users request a specific news item during a given time period. It is Applicants' belief that Herz et al. disclose a system that monitors which articles are read by a user and updates the user's preference profiles.

Applicants believe that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a system for determining changes in the count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news

source which are related to a selected subject over a recent time period, the system comprising (1) means for measuring a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period, (2) means for comparing the count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject of a previous time period, and (3) means for signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount. Applicants also believe that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose a method for determining changes in the count of news articles produced by a group of at least one news source which are related to a selected subject over a recent time period, the method comprising (1) measuring a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period, (2) comparing the count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the selected subject of a previous time

period, and (3) signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

In other words, the present invention determines changes in the volume of news articles produced by a group of at least one news source which are related to a selected subject over a given time period from the volume of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source for the same selected subject over a previous time period. This count relates to how many news articles are produced by the group of at least one news source for a given selected subject over a given time period; this is quite different from how many requests there are for a given news item over a given time period. Neither Reilly et al. nor Herz et al. appear to measure counts of news articles produced by a group of at least one news source for a selected subject over multiple time periods, compare a count of news articles produced by the group of at least one news source from a recent time period to a count from previous time period, and signal when the counts yield a difference therebetween greater than a predetermined amount. Accordingly, claims 1 and 28 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-27, which depend either directly or ultimately from claim 1, are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons

identified hereinabove. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-27 is respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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